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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General proposes to hold consultations with Co-chairmen of Paris Conference on Cambodia to find way out of "present impasse" citing "persistent failure" by Party of Democratic Kampuchea to meet obligations under Paris Agreement.

+ Co-Chairmen of London Conference on former Yugoslavia express deep concern over reports from Banja Luka region of build-up of tension, bomb incidents and development of ethnic-cleansing campaign; will visit Banja Luka tomorrow to meet with representatives of local communities and humanitarian agencies.

+ General Assembly addressed by Presidents of Indonesia and Slovenia; Vice President of Suriname and Prime Minister of New Zealand; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait and Belgium; Foreign Ministers of Italy, Yemen, San Marino, Canada; Last night Assembly heard President of Bolivia; Foreign Ministers of Congo, Malaysia, Denmark, Brunei Darussalam and Romania.

+ Security Council concludes that necessary conditions do not exist for modification of sanctions against Iraq; holds consultations on draft text regarding unfreezing of Iraqi assets overseas to finance humanitarian activities and work of Special Commission; Special Commission reports first day of destruction of Iraqi nerve gas.

+ In Geneva, Committee on Rights of Child begins its second session.

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While the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had made substantial progress since its establishment six months ago, the "persistent failure" of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) to meet its obligations in keeping with the Paris Agreements of last October obstructed the full implementation of the peace plan, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He has therefore proposed to ask the Co-chairmen of the Paris Conference -- France and Indonesia -- to undertake consultations in close cooperation with Yasushi Akashi, his Personal Representative and

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himself, with the aim of "finding a way out of the present impasse". That proposal, which is subject to the approval of the Security Council, is contained in a second progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Cambodia.

In his report, dated 21 September, the Secretary-General notes that the time is approaching when "some difficult decisions" regarding ways and means of pursuing the UNTAC operation "will have to be seriously considered". In other respects, however, the implementation of UNTAC is proceeding apace, according to the report. Elections are still scheduled to take place no later than May 1993. The repatriation of refugees and displaced persons is making steady progress with more than 115,000 having returned to Cambodia so far. Some 250,000 remain to be repatriated.

According to the latest population estimates, the report says, the voting population appears to be about 5 million, which is somewhat larger than the 4.3 million estimated. The registration of voters is scheduled to begin in October. A proposal to hold a presidential election simultaneously with the election for a constituent assembly is currently being considered. Such a proposal would require the authorization of the Security Council.

The United Nations operation in Cambodia is the largest peace-keeping effort in the history of the Organization with a $1.9 billion budget and involving about 22,000 foreign personnel to oversee the country's transition to a new administration after multi-party elections next spring. The UNTAC military component is almost fully deployed at just below its projected strength of 15,900.
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The Co-chairmen of the London Conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have expressed deep concern about reports from the Banja Luka region of rising tension, bomb incidents, and intimidation with the potential threat of violence and the development of an ethnic-cleansing campaign.

According to a press statement issued in Geneva today, the Co-chairmen called in Ambassador Pavicevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Dr. Koljevic, the representative of the Bosnian Serbs, and urged that immediate steps be taken to reduce tension in the area. Lord Owen and Mr. Vance will fly to Banja Luka tomorrow to assess the situation on the ground and to meet with representatives of the local communities and humanitarian agencies.

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In his address this morning to the General Assembly, Indonesia's President Soeharto, underlined, on behalf on his Government and of the 108 members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), that global problems were interlinked, especially in the economic sphere. He therefore called for a revival of the constructive dialogue between the North and the South based on the imperative of genuine interdependence, mutuality of interests and of

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benefits and shared responsibility, "with the positions of each side clearly elaborated ans presented and rationally discussed and negotiated".

At the same time, he expressed the determination of the non-aligned countries to intensify South-South cooperation on the basis of collective self-reliance. South-South cooperation is vital for promoting our own development and for reducing undue dependence on the North, he said.

Turning to the political situation in former Yugoslavia, the Indonesian President condemned the "massive atrocities and violations of human rights being committed against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially its Muslim population". He reaffirmed the inadmissibility of aggression and of acquisition of territory by force and called for the full respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and cultural identity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On human rights, Mr. Soeharto pointed out that democracy was not a static concept limited to certain established forms and practices. No single model of democracy could be assumed to be of universal applicability, given the diversity of cultural values and historical experiences of the nations of the world Moreover, he noted, it would be a denial of the basic tenets of democracy if its values were to be strictly observed within nations, while they were being ignored among nations.

Expressing his pessimism at the situation in former Yugoslavia, the Foreign Minister of Italy, Emilio Colombo, noted that "in spite of the assurances and undertakings given by Prime Minister Panic", the fighting continued in Bosnia-Herzegovina and humanitarian assistance was impossible to deliver. He launched an appeal to the international community to help bring an end to the suffering of civilian populations and to the total destruction of that country.

Citing Somalia as an example of the "total detachment and lack of concern shown by the affluent societies toward countries plagued by poverty and disease", the Italian Minister called for an international initiative involving organizations and countries able to contribute to the pacification and reconstruction of Somalia. That country needed guidance, partners, in short, a government, he said.

Mr. Colombo also informed the Assembly that the dispute between his country and Austria over the Alto Adige area had ended last June, following a lengthy process involving the elaboration and application at the national level of a package of measures adopted by Italy, in consultation with the representatives of the German-speaking population of that region.

Abdul Aziz Al-Dali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Yemen stated this morning that the new unity of his country would not be at the expense of the neighbouring States.

Yemen was willing to negotiate borders with all neighbouring countries, he said. Furthermore, he informed the Assembly that negotiations between his

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country and Oman had reached the final stage. Regarding the borders with Saudi Arabia, they were also being negotiated, he said, which proved the reality of Yemen's intention to cooperate with the countries of the Arab peninsula.

Speaking about the peace talks in the Middle East, he said the negotiations would not be successful unless the principle of "land for peace" was accepted along with Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories.

In his statement before the General Assembly this morning, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of San Marino, Gabriele Gatti, noted that the force rooted in and safeguarded by a democratic government was necessary to freedom in order to support peace.

Even though the most advanced democracies do not meet the two requisites of freedom - not depending on others' will and participating in the decisions that concern us, Mr. Gatti expressed his conviction that any other form of political regime would deprive men even more of their freedoms.

In democratic institutions the exercise of power - both political and military - was a service rendered in favour of the civil and democratic growth and of the social-economic development of the entire community, a service in favour of the individual which was never above or against him, he stressed. Those who used power against a part of the community, against a minority or a group of individuals, or those who hindered or made the civil, cultural, social and economic development recede must account for their actions, he said.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Barbara McDougall, strongly protested the resurgence of the "abhorrent" practice of ethnic cleansing, saying it represents the "basest form of inhumanity and abuse of the individual" which could not be tolerated by the world community. She told the Assembly that Canada would press for a draft statute by the International Law Commission to establish an international criminal court. To that end, Canada would shortly convene an international meeting of experts to mobilize legal expertise on the issue.

Mrs. McDougall urged that the concept of peace-keeping be further refined to meet the challenges of the 1990's and praised the Secretary-General's proposals on preventive diplomacy. Her Government also urged the Security Council to adopt the option of preventive peace-keeping when lives could be saved and confrontation averted. Some 4,300 Canadian men and women served under the United Nations flag -- ten per cent of the entire peace-keeping personnel, she said. Another 45 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were committed to serve with United Nations civilian forces in the former Yugoslavia. Countries which made available such civilian experts, she said, should have their supplemental costs reimbursed.

The President of Slovenia, Milan Kucan, in his address to the Assembly this afternoon, said that his country's most immediate interest concerning the recent London Conference on former Yugoslavia was the situation of refugees of which Slovenia had more than 70,000. He called for a review of the

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suitability of institutional arrangements, saying that one million Muslim refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who had fled from genocide and ethnic cleansing, were now widely scattered throughout Europe. They were becoming a nation without a land, he said.

While Slovenia was not in dispute with any of the nations of former Yugoslavia, Mr. Kucan said, his country supported measures against the policies of Serbia and Montenegro and opposed their attempt to succede the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The action by the General Assembly to reject the "so-called" Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) was convincing proof that the United Nations was capable of showing the necessary decisiveness to condemn States that flagrantly violated peace, security and human rights.

Jules R. Ajodhia, Vice President of the Republic of Suriname, in his statement, expressed his confidence that the Organization of American States would render its valuable support in verifying the compliance with the recently signed agreement for national reconciliation and development in his country. He said however that newly restored democracies like Suriname were fragile and depended to a considerable extent on international understanding and support.

With regard to the re-established development cooperation with the Netherlands, he pointed out that the signing of the "framework treaty for friendship and closer cooperation" has added a new dimension to the bilateral relations between the two nations. Mr. Ajodhia informed the Assembly that progress had been made in establishing a much needed degree of political stability in Suriname; thus, he said, the Government can now concentrate on finding solutions for the current grave economicx problems and social crisis confronting Suriname.

Security in the Gulf region was part and parcel of global security, Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Minister of Kuwait told the Assembly. While the Security Council had obviously succeeded in ensuring the liberation of his country, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister noted that certain implications of the Iraqi aggression continued to "loom in the horizon" as long as the Iraqi regime persisted in its rejection to comply fully with the Security Council's resolutions. For instance, he said, there were still Kuwaiti and third country prisoners held hostages in Iraqi jails, and Iraq was still rejecting assumption of legal responsibility for its plundering of property owned by Kuwaiti private sector and individuals.

The Minister called on the international community to bring further pressure on Iraq and to remain vigilant to that country's "practices and schemes". The principle of collective responsability still stood and the lessons drawn from that painful and bitter experience should be fully understood and never forgotten, he said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Willy Claes, this afternoon paid tribute to the steadfast efforts of the Conference on Disarmament,

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currently chaired by his country, and appealed for universal acceptance of the recently concluded chemical Weapons Convention which aims to eliminate the "particularly barbarous weapons from all arsenals".

He also expressed concern about the economic problems in Africa, a region to which his country felt "particularly close". Welcoming the widely accepted link between democracy, human rights and development, he said Belgium was now inspired not by "a new "paternalism", but hoped to enter into cooperation as equal partners to support political renewal in Africa.

Among his Governments initiatives were the establishment of a fund to assist the financing of democratic elections; influencing its partners and relevant international institutions to ensure that the dawning of democracy is accompanied by an upturn in economic activity; and intensifying emergency aid in several zones affected by conflict or natural disasters.

The Belgian Foreign Minister also addressed the question of preventive diplomacy, saying that when prevention reached its limits, the United Nations must be able to resort to other peace-keeping measures. Belgium for its part, he said, had dispatched a battalion to Croatia, units to Bosnia and Herzegovina and was now preparing for deployment in Somalia.

Prime Minister James Brendan Bolger of New Zealand told the Assembly that despite the progress made since the end of the Cold War, the threat from weapons of mass destruction had not yet been removed. He welcomed the "remarkable progress" made by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin in their June agreement, under which the world's two largest nuclear arsenals are to be reduced by 70 per cent. Mr. Bolger also urged that the momentum be kept up saying that, unless decisive action was taken, the dangers from nuclear weapons, proliferation would increase.

The New Zealand Prime Minister called for the strengthening of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards regime, and urged that an indefinite extension for the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 be secured. He also pointed to France's decision to suspend testing in the Pacific, saying it had opened the way for significantly more positive relations between France and the region.

President Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia told the Assembly yesterday afternoon that his country was successfully fighting drug trafficking because it had resisted efforts to militarize that fight and to impose plans on the country from the outside. He appealed to the international community to focus on reducing consumption of illicit drugs and to support efforts such as crop substitution.

Bolivia would never give up its aspiration to have a presence on the Pacific Coast, Mr. Zamora said, and denounced the "injust war that has deprived Bolivia of the possibility of being a maritime nation". He noted however that proof of the soundness of Bolivia's pragmatic strategy could be

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found in the agreement with Peru signed last January, which gave Bolivian and Peruvian entrepreneurs control of a seaport, while Bolivia had authority over a small strip of coast.

Development assistance was a fundamental principle for Africa, Benjamin Bounkoulou, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Hydrocarbons of Congo, stated yesterday. That was why the continent would pay close attention to the fine points of the marginalization of its links with the global system. Thus, in the new game of certains interests that wanted to introduce a new culture into the United Nations, Africa would work to preserve the Organization's primary role, as stated by the Charter, in the area of cooperation for economic and social development.

Mr. Bounkoulou said that it was important that the United Nations contribute to efforts for democratization around the world. Congo, he pointed out, was proceeding towards more participatory democracy. Decentralization was the centrepiece of his Government's new policy. The objective was to improve living conditions for the poorest people by giving them the means to have decent housing, water supply and sanitation facilities, basic primary education and income-generating activities.

Foreign Minister Abdulla Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia yesterday reaffirmed his country's special interest in peace and stability and economic well-being in Cambodia as he spoke on matters of regional concern before the General Assembly.

Mr. Badawi said his country stood ready to join Cambodia bilaterally in economic and technical cooperation. He also expressed full support for the United Nations role in Cambodia, assisting in peace-keeping efforts with a contribution of 1,060 men to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Mr. Badawi also told the Assembly that too much emphasis had been given to the United Nations role in the maintenance of international security, with too little focus on the social and economic dimensions of peace. Furthermore, he said, there was growing concern that the Security Council, particularly the permanent members, tended to select when and where to apply collective measures under the Charter. Citing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said, the Council had yet to respond to requests by a number of the Organization of the Islamic Conference countries for an emergency meeting with a formal debate, much less to invoke Article 42 of Chapter 7 of the Charter.

Welcoming the enlarged role of the United Nations in peace efforts yesterday, Foreign Minister of Denmark, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, announced that his country, which for more than 25 years had given humanitarian assistance to the victims of the apartheid system, was now prepared to initiate a programme of transitional assistance to South Africa, once an interim government was in place in that country.

The Danish Minister noted that the United Nations faced steadily growing demands for peace-keeping efforts and stressed that these operations should be

seen as an interim offer to the parties to a conflict and must be limited to a few years. "A peace-keeping operation must never by mere length of its existence turn out to be an excuse for the parties not to seek a negotiated settlement of their dispute", he noted. He reiterated his Government's commitment to further contributions to peace-keeping operations, both in Europe and in other parts of the world.

Brunei Darussalam had been engaged in intense diplomatic activity over the past year to establish a wide range of bilateral relations and to participate fully in regional and international organizations, according to Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of that country.

Thus, even small nations could contribute to the success of the United Nations which, in turn, should complement regional and international institutions. That could be illustrated by the part the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had played in finding a solution to the Cambodian problem. A continuing spirit of cooperation among the parties to any international settlement had to be encouraged, he said.

The Foreign Minister also emphasized that social and economic problems faced by a great number of developing nations posed a threat to their internal security and, therefore, to international security. It was therefore vital, he said, that developing and developed countries engage in peace-building together.

Adrian Nastase, Foreign Minister of Romania, called attention to his country's upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections -- scheduled for 27 September -- the first since the adoption of the new democratic Constitution. Like all new Central European democracies, Romania was trying simultaneously to create new political structures and new workable economic mechanisms, he said, citing achievements of his Government, such as the guaranteed rights of national minorities, local elections and the building up of economic and financial market mechanisms.

Efforts to restore and consolidate democracy in Romania could not, however, be isolated from the international environment. Of major concern was the situation in Yugoslavia. He said his country had remained "unbiased by territorial or other interests" and was determined to contribute further to the efforts of the international community to restore peace, and stability in Yugoslavia.

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The President of the Security Council, José Ayala Lasso (Ecuador), issued a statement on behalf of Council members today saying that the Council had concluded, following consultations, that the necessary conditions did not exist for a modification of the sanctions regime against Iraq established in resolution 687 (1991).

In a separate development, the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay, told correspondents that the Council had

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held consultations this morning regarding the unfreezing of Iraqi assets overseas to finance the United Nations humanitarian activities in Iraq and the work of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament. He said the Council would have preferred Iraqi implementation of Council resolutions 706 and 712 (1991) concerning that country's oil sale for humanitarian supplies, but the Iraqi Government had rejected those resolutions. The Council would take action 'in the reasonably near future, but not in the next two or three days", Sir David Hannay said.

In other news today, the Special Commission set up to oversee the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has begun the destruction of nerve agent on a large scale in a newly commissioned hydrolysis plant.

In a press release issued at Headquarters today, the team's chief inspector, Garth Whitty, reported that the first day's operations went "without a hitch". By a combination of continuous air monitoring and sample-taking and analysis, the experts were able to ensure that the agent had been thoroughly destroyed and that there had been no contamination of the surrounding environment.

The operation was expected to continue on a daily basis and to increase throughout as the team and their Iraqi counterparts gained experience.

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The Committee on the Rights of the Child, responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, began its second session today in Geneva.

During its two-week session, this newest human rights body will continue to deal with organizational matters such as the submission of reports by States parties in accordance with the Convention; the system of documentation and information, among other things.

A day of general discussion, to take place on 5 October, will be devoted to the topic of "Children in armed conflicts", with the relevant agencies and individual experts among those invited to participate.

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